

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-30 and 34-36 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 7 has been amended. Claims 1-6 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the canceled subject matter. No claims have been added. As a result, claims 7-30, 34 and 36 are pending for examination with claims 7, 8, 13, 23, 26 and 34 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's finding that claims 8-30, 34 and 36 are allowed and that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 7 has been amended to be rewritten into independent form. The prior Office Action dated March 13, 2006 indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended to only include the limitations of claim 7 as of March 13, 2006 (i.e. not the later amendments made to claim 1).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

In the Office Action dated August 7, 2006, claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Graham (U.S. Patent No. 5,070,629), and claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham.

Without acceding to the propriety of the Patent Office's positions as set forth in the Office Action, Applicants have canceled claims 1-6 and 35 to expedite prosecution and place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

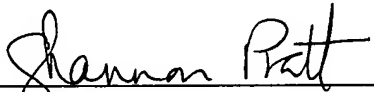
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825. In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: November 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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